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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize assistance for anti-tunnel defense capabilities for Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHNEIDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize assistance for anti-tunnel defense capabilities
for Israel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
5 Anti-Tunnel Defense Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Hamas, Hizballah, and the Palestinian Is-
2 lamic Jihad are United States-designated foreign
3 terrorist organizations.

4 (2) Designated Palestinian terrorist organiza-
5 tions have killed hundreds of Israelis and dozens of
6 Americans in rocket attacks and suicide bombings.

7 (3) Hamas has used underground tunnels to
8 Israel and Egypt to smuggle weapons, money, and
9 supplies into Gaza and to send members of Hamas
10 out of Gaza for training and to bring trainers in to
11 Gaza to teach Hamas how to manufacture rockets
12 and improve construction of tunnels.

13 (4) Tunnels in Gaza have also been used as un-
14 derground rocket launching sites, weapons caches,
15 bunkers, transportation networks, and command and
16 control centers.

17 (5) In 2006, Hamas kidnapped Israeli soldier
18 Gilad Shalit through a tunnel and held him for five
19 years.

20 (6) The Israel Defense Forces discovered and
21 destroyed 32 tunnels during the conflict with Hamas
22 in the summer of 2014, 14 of which crossed into
23 Israel.

24 (7) Since 2014, Hamas has spent considerable
25 resources to rebuild its tunnel network.

1 (8) Hamas intentionally uses civilians as human
2 shields by placing its underground tunnel network in
3 densely populated areas and schools, hospitals, and
4 mosques.

5 (9) Hizballah has used underground tunnels in
6 southern Lebanon to move Hizballah fighters and to
7 launch attacks.

8 (10) The Palestinian Islamic Jihad has also
9 dug tunnels from Gaza that penetrate Israel.

10 (11) Israel has a right to defend itself from the
11 violence of Palestinian terrorist groups, including the
12 violence that is facilitated through terrorist tunnel
13 networks.

14 (12) The United States is working cooperatively
15 with the Government of Israel to develop tech-
16 nologies to detect and destroy tunnels penetrating
17 the territory of Israel.

18 (13) This joint United States-Israel cooperation
19 will not only benefit Israel, but will also help the
20 United States and allies across the globe that face
21 similar challenges from subterranean tunnels.

22 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR ANTI-TUN-**
23 **NEL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES FOR ISRAEL.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, upon
25 request of the Ministry of Defense of Israel and in con-

1 sultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of
2 National Intelligence, is authorized to carry out research,
3 development, test, and evaluation, on a joint basis with
4 Israel, to establish anti-tunnel capabilities to detect, map,
5 and neutralize underground tunnels that threaten the
6 United States or Israel.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry
9 out this section \$47,500,000 for fiscal year 2018.